

## **LACDMH Softball Team Brings Home the Golden Mitt**

James Cordovez and Valerie Crawford

An exciting March of Dimes Co-Ed Softball Tournament took place on Saturday, June 21, 2014, at the Glendale Sports Complex. The nine Los Angeles County teams that participated in the charity event included:

1. BOS Dirtbags – Board of Supervisors
2. Crossroads – Department of Social Services (DPSS)
3. Honey Badgers – DMH/Beaches & Harbor
4. Icy Hot – DPSS
5. Just 4 Kicks – Department of Public Works
6. LACERA Sluggers
7. No Glove No Love – Internal Service Department (ISD)/Fire Department/DPSS)
8. Smash Mode – DMH
9. Train Me Up – Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)



*DMH team Smash Mode*

Both DMH teams, Smash Mode and the Honey Badgers, returned to the tournament with the hope of competing against each other in the championship game. Not surprisingly, these two undefeated teams met in the playoffs and did not disappoint the enthusiastic supporters in the stands.

The playoffs were 55 minutes, with final innings being played out and games cannot end in a tie. This was by far one of the most competitive games in the tournament;

however, when the final run was scored, the Honey Badgers were victorious and went on to win the tournament with a score of 14-13.

The championship game consisted of seven innings with no time limit, unless the mercy rule was in effect. It was close for the first four innings. Both teams played exceptionally well, especially defensively. But in the top half of the fifth, the Honey Badgers exploded scoring 16 runs, nine runs coming with a two-out rally, giving them a 14 point lead. Just one run shy of the mercy rule. In the bottom of the fifth, No Glove No Love scored five runs to give them another chance and extend the game.

But again, the Honey Badgers forced their will and scored eight runs in the top half of the sixth, extending their lead and possibly ending the game early due to the mercy rule. No Glove No Love needed to score three runs in the bottom half of the sixth to extend the game once again. They nearly did, but came up short scoring only one run forcing the umpire to call the game early because the mercy rule was now in effect.



*Champions: DMH team Honey Badgers*

With the final score in six innings: Honey Badgers 31, No Glove No Love 15, a new champion was crowned. It took four years, but with the teamwork and massive support from the fans, DMH finally brought the golden glove home!





*Runner-up: ISD/Fire/DPSS team No Glove No Love*



The annual tournament, organized by James Cordovez from Administrative Services Bureau (ASB), was a success. Though it was a rather intense and competitive day, all of the teams were respectful of each other and played fairly. There were a few minor injuries, but fortunately there were nurses in the stands who assisted the players.